

--80'--.

Page 47, line 4, change "structure" to --for upper gripping portions--; line 8, please change "12" to --55'--; and lines 10, 11, 16 and 19, change "72" to --71--.

Page 50, lines 2 and 4, change "202" to --202'--.

In the Abstract of the Disclosure

Line 2, change "The present invention includes methods" to -Methods--; line 3, after "formed", insert --are disclosed--.

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13 and 15 as follows:

1. (amended) An apparatus for dispensing, applying, and sealing individual sections of thermoplastic tape having one or more fastener profiles thereto, said tape being sealed across a portion of a web of thermoplastic material, said apparatus comprising: means for dispensing said tape and fastener [profiles] profile; a tape applicator apparatus; means for delivering tensioned tape and fastener [profiles] profile from said tape dispensing means [to said tape applicator apparatus], said means for delivering comprising a tape registration assembly for adjusting the position of said tape and fastener [profiles] profile and a tape drive assembly for advancing said tape and fastener [profiles] profile; a tape cutter assembly for cutting said tape and fastener [profiles] profile into individual

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sections of a preselected length; vacuum belt means for advancing said section of tape and fastener [profiles] profile into a [desired] position across said web of thermoplastic material; a tape sealing mechanism for applying pressure and heat to said tape section on said web for a specified dwell time; and means for sequentially advancing said web.

2. (amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said means for dispensing said tape comprises: a roll of said tape pivotally mounted on a powered unwind [seal] reel; a tension arm having said tape [round] wound thereon, said tension arm being slidably mounted so as to rise or [discard] descent in response to tension on said tape; and means for controlling rotation speed [and tension] of said unwind reel in response to said rising or descent of said tension arm.

3. (amended) The apparatus of [said] Claim 1 wherein said means for delivering [tensional] tensioned tape comprises: a plurality of dancer rollers thereon, the position of said [tensioned] dancer rollers indicating tension on said tape; film [synchronizes] synchronizer means for synchronizing said tape with said tape [application] applicator apparatus, said film synchronizer means having one or more vertically adjustable rollers therein, said [rollers] vertically adjustable roller being vertically adjustable in response to tension on said tape disposed through said [rollers] vertically adjustable; [and a] said tape registration assembly [for adjusting the registration

03 of said tape], and a nip drive assembly for feeding said tape in response to the position of said rollers in said film synchronizer means and the position of said dancer rollers.

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4 8. (amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 [and] further comprising: means for [ultrasonic] ultrasonically sealing [the ends of said sections of] said tape transversely prior to cutting of said tape, positioned between said means for dispensing said tape and said tape applicator.

04 5/ 9. (amended) [The apparatus of Claim 1] An apparatus for dispensing, applying, and sealing individual sections of thermoplastic tape having one or more fastener profiles thereto, said tape being sealed across a portion of a web of thermoplastic material, said apparatus comprising: means for dispensing said tape and fastener profile; a tape applicator apparatus; means for delivering tensioned tape and fastener profile from said tape dispensing means, said means for delivering comprising a tape registration assembly for adjusting the position of said tape and fastener profile and a tape drive assembly for advancing said tape and fastener profile; a tape cutter assembly for cutting said tape and fastener profile into individual sections of a preselected length; vacuum belt means for advancing said section of tape and fastener profile into a position across said web of thermoplastic material; a tape sealing mechanism for applying pressure and heat to said tape section on said web for a

specified dwell time; and means for sequentially advancing said web;

C<sup>4</sup> wherein said vacuum belt means, said tape registration assembly and said tape cutter assembly are interconnected by a belt drive constructed and arranged for maintaining the relative speed of operation of said vacuum belt means, said tape cutter assembly and [said] nip rollers, and for retaining the [relative] position of said tape and said tape segments [driving] during operation of said apparatus.

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1 11. (amended) The apparatus of Claim <sup>5</sup> wherein said tape drive assembly comprises: a double hub, having a first hub and a second hub, said first hub being connected by a toothed belt to a third hub on said drive motor, said third hub being mounted on a first shaft powered by said drive motor so as to rotate said third hub thereby causing said double hub to rotate; said double hub being mounted on an end of one of said nip rollers so as to cause rotation of said nip roller when said double hub is rotated; said vacuum belt means having a drive shaft extending through one end thereof and a fourth hub extending from said drive shaft, said fourth hub having a toothed drive belt disposed thereon; said toothed drive belt being connected to first said hub so as to cause said fourth hub and said drive shaft to rotate when said first hub rotates, thereby driving said vacuum belt means in synchronization with said cutter assembly and said nip rollers.

C<sup>5</sup>

12. (amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, wherein said tape cutter assembly comprises: an air piston mechanism having a shaft extending downwardly therefrom, said air piston being constructed and arranged to selectively raise and lower said shaft; a cutter blade and clamp affixed to the distal end of said shaft for clamping and cutting of said tape; a slidable die plate for selectively being positioned under said tape, said die plate having a slot extending therethrough and a spring loaded stripper block proximate said slot; said clamp being constructed and arranged for pushing down said stripper block when said shaft is [extended] lowered so as to facilitate cutting of said tape; said stripper block being constructed and arranged to press upwardly when said clamp is pulled upwardly by said shaft, said stripper block being constructed and arranged to push the distal end of said tape towards said vacuum belt means.

13. (amended) [The apparatus of Claim 1] An apparatus for dispensing, applying, and sealing individual sections of thermoplastic tape having one or more fastener profiles thereto, said tape being sealed across a portion of a web of thermoplastic material, said apparatus comprising: means for dispensing said tape and fastener profile; a tape applicator apparatus; means for delivering tensioned tape and fastener profile from said tape dispensing means, said means for delivering comprising a tape registration assembly for adjusting the position of said tape and fastener profile and a tape drive assembly for advancing said tape and fastener profile; a tape cutter assembly for cutting

said tape and fastener profile into individual sections of a  
preselected length; vacuum belt means for advancing said section  
of tape and fastener profile into a position across said web of  
thermoplastic material; a tape sealing mechanism for applying  
pressure and heat to said tape section on said web for a  
specified dwell time; and means for sequentially advancing said  
web;

Q5 wherein said vacuum belt means comprises; a vacuum belt  
having a plurality of holes extending therethrough; said vacuum  
belt being rotatably mounted on a pair of rollers; at least one  
of said rollers being powered so as to selectively cause rotation  
of said belt, and incremental advancement of said belt a  
[desired] distance; a ledge extending below said belt constructed  
of a [slick] thermoplastic elastomer and sized and positioned so  
as to serve as a barrier to air from said web moving thereunder,  
and as an eliminator of [plastic] static electricity.

Q6 15. (amended) The apparatus of Claim 1 wherein said tape  
comprises a folded loop having a pair of interlocked fastener  
profilers attached thereto on the inside surface thereof [, said  
interlocked fastener profilers being constructed and arranged for  
selectively opening and resealing, whereby when said tape is  
positioned and sealed on said web, said web is suitable for  
conversion into a plurality of resealable bags].

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